

Message Text

SECRET

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51

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 241313Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4930

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T AMMAN 4212

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, JO, MO

SUBJECT: RIFAI TRIP TO MEET BEN SOUDA

1. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION THIS MORNING WITH PRIME MINISTER RIFAI HE MENTIONED FOR MY PRIVATE INFORMATION THAT HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR YESTERDAY IN NAME OF AHMED BEN SOUDA, CHIEF OF MOROCCAN COURT. BEN SOUDA REQUESTED AN IMMEDIATE SECRET MEETING IN ANY CONVENIENT NON-ARAB CAPITAL. BEN SOUDA STIPULATED THAT RIFAI COME IN PERSON TO SEE HIM AND THAT MEETING MUST TAKE PLACE BEFORE END OF MONTH WHEN UNSPECIFIED EVENTS WITH WHICH MEETING IS CONCERNED WILL TAKE PLACE.

2. RIFAI SAID HE OFFERED TO GO TO MOROCCO OR TO HAVE BEN SOUDA VISIT HIM HERE BUT BOTH ALTERNATIVES WERE REJECTED AND A NUMBER OF EUROPEAN CAPITALS MENTIONED AS SUITABLE. BEN SOUDA INTIMATED THAT MEETING WAS AT THE REQUEST OF KING HASSAN OF MOROCCO.

3. RIFAI INTENDS TO LEAVE TOMORROW 11:30 AM LOCAL ON REGULAR JORDANIAN FLIGHT TO LONDON AND HOPES TO RETURN WHEN AIRCRAFT MAKES RETURN JOURNEY TO AMMAN ON THURSDAY.

4. RIFAI SAID HE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF WE COULD PROVIDE
SECRET

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ANY INFORMATION ON WHAT TRIP MAY BE ABOUT. HE SUSPECTED

THAT BEN SOUDA HAD RECENTLY BEEN IN TRIPOLI AND
TUNIS AND THAT HIS TRIP TO TUNIS HAD FOLLOWED VISIT OF PALESTINIAN
LEADER ABU LUFUF THERE. RIFAI SAID MOROCCANS DENIED MEETING
CONCERNED "THE BROTHER", A LOCAL EUPHEMISM FOR PALESTINIANS.
HE WAS NOT SURE, BUT COULD THINK OF NO REASON IN BILATERAL
RELATIONS TO EXPLAIN URGENCY OF TRIP OR HIGH-LEVEL
ATTENTION IT WAS BEING GIVEN BY MOROCCANS. KING
HUSSEIN HAS AGREED TO HIS TRAVEL AND RIFAI WILL BE
INFORMING THE BRITISH IN CONNECTION WITH A REQUEST FOR
SECURITY PROTECTION. BEN SOUDA ACCEPTED FACT THAT RIFAI
COULD NOT KEEP HIS PRESENCE IN LONDON SECRET, BUT INSISTED HIS
OWN COULD BE HIDDEN. MOROCCAN IMPLIED FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS
MIGHT BE REQUIRED.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANYTHING
DEPARTMENT OR RABAT CAN SUGGEST OR MAY KNOW ABOUT
CONCERNING THIS MEETING WHICH CAN BE PASSED ON TO
RIFAI PREFERABLY TO ARRIVE HERE PRIOR TO 07:30 A.M.
LOCAL 25 JUNE.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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